

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-02

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P R 081125Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 683

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USINT ALGIERS

UNCLAS BEIRUT 12191

USIA FOR IOP/M, IBS, IPS, INA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, LE

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: SECRETARY KISSINGER'S COMING TRIP

1. SUMMARY. LIMITED BEIRUT PRESS COMMENT ON SECRETARY KISSINGER'S EXPANDED ITINERARY INTERPRETS ANNOUNCEMENT OF ADDITIONAL STOPS AS SIGN THAT OIL QUESTION MAY OVERSHADOW DISCUSSION OF FURTHER DISENGAGEMENT DURING COMING TRIP. END SUMMARY.

2. MICHAEL ABU JAWDEH, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF LEADING INDEPENDENT ARABIC DAILY AN-NAHAR, WRITES: "DR. KISSINGER IS COMING TO AREA UNDER WEIGHT OF TONS OF PESSIMISM ON QUESTION OF MIDEAST AND SUBJECT OF PALESTINIANS -- TONS HE HIMSELF CREATED MOST PROBABLY TO CRAMP ARAB STATES AND THUS BRING THEM TO MAKE CONCESSIONS ON OIL...AMERICAN SECSTATE HAS BEEN UNABLE TO CONCEAL WHAT IS IN HIS HEART...AND HE REVEALED IT OFFICIALLY IN ADDING SAUDI ARABIA AND ALGERIA, I.E., THE TWO LEADERS OF OIL, TO HIS TRIP. IT IS AS IF HE IS SAYING 'WE WANT TO STUDY QUESTION OF OIL A LOT, BUT WE DO NOT WANT TO STUDY QUESTION OF TERRITORY WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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IT UNLESS YOU RETREAT ON OIL. SIMILARLY, WE DO NOT WANT TO MEET

PALESTINIANS UNLESS YOU RETREAT ON OIL. DON'T EXPECT ANYTHING FROM US BEFORE YOU DO'."

3. PRO-LIBYAN ARABIC DAILY AS-SAFIR WRITES: "U.S. IS NOW WORKING ON ARRANGING THREE BATTLES IN COORDINATION WITH ISRAEL.... FIRST BATTLE IS BEING WAGED OPENLY BY U.S. AGAINST ARAB ECONOMIC POWER IRRESPECTIVE OF ITS POLITICAL COLORING.... SECOND BATTLE IS BEING WAGED BY U.S. AGAINST ARAB CONFRONTATION STATES.... IN THIS BATTLE, U.S. IS EXPLOITING CRISIS OF ARAB-ISRAELI STRUGGLE TO PUT FORTH, THROUGH KISSINGER AND HIS COMING TRIP, DEMAND FOR COMPLETE ARAB SUBMISSION TO ITS OIL DEMANDS IN EXCHANGE FOR ANOTHER STEP TOWARD ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL.... AS FOR THIRD BATTLE, IT IS ONE ISRAEL IS WAGING AGAINST P.L.O.... HOWEVER SKILLFUL KISSINGER MAY BE IN CLEVER TALK, HE MUST SPEAK CLEARLY ABOUT THESE THREE BATTLES. IMPORTANT THING IS NOT KISSINGER'S STATEMENTS, BUT THE ANSWER THAT HE HEARS."

GODLEY

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